

William King Elementary School

School Advisory Council



Date: April 28, 2022

Attendance: Tracy Marchand, Chris Longaphy, Jill Ginn, Sherisse O’Leary, Johanna Watters, Nicole Munroe, Sherry Forester, Debbie Clark, Erica Smith, Eamonn & Emily Murphy

Regrets:

Minutes: Nicole Munroe

Call to Order – 6:02 pm

Approval of Agenda - Approved

Approval of Minutes – Moved to approve by Sherisse O’Leary, motion seconded by Chris Longaphy and passed.

Principal Report:

1. Enrollment Update: 16 students registered for PP. We do know there are a few more out there. We received 6 new students this week alone (grades 2 and up). Enrollment is now 237.

Current configuration projections based on current enrollment. Caps exist on P-2 (20+2) and 3-5 (25+2). Late registration is in August so with the amount of development in the area, there is a big likelihood these configurations could change, and an additional classroom may be warranted if they do.

Projections:

PP-16	P-19	P/1-19
1-19	1/2-20	2-20
3-25	3/4-25	4/5-25
5-26		

May 11th is first round of postings for teachers. There are 2 rounds. Permanent teachers can apply for any vacancy that comes up. There is usually a lot of movement this time of year. Our grade 5 teacher and grade 1/2 teacher are both in term positions. As well as our LC teachers. Schools will receive their staffing allotment on May 6. Mr. Longaphy was the successful applicant for the permanent VP position. I just found out that I will be moving to John W McLeod Flemming Tower in the fall.

2. Student Success Planning: We continue to work daily on our 3 big goals (improving literacy, math, and student well-being). A provincial student survey (around well-being) will soon be underway, administered to students in grades 4 & 5. Last meeting, we reviewed some of the math resources purchased to support our goals and SAC has committed to funding for updates to class libraries, including the purchase of literacy kits focused on phonemic development.

Motion to approve funding for teachers:

9 teachers x \$400 = \$3600 with remaining funds (approx. \$1500) to go towards purchasing literacy kits for teachers

Motion approved

3. P-2 Reading Priority: Teachers continue to focus on the priority and work daily to move students closer to reading benchmarks. 75% of primaries are reading at expected level. 9 students currently working on moving out of patterned text. It is important to get primary students out of patterned text as soon as possible as that is where the real reading work begins. If left too long, they become dependent on the structure of the book to support them. Patterned text is good for developing directionality, 1:1 matching, letter identification, counting number of words and number of letters, learning about the difference between words and letters and being able to build a small bank of high frequency words. Both primary teachers have been absent for 3 weeks after this data was tabulated so they have some additional work to do. 97% of our grade 1 students are at benchmarks. The biggest group of students requiring support is our grade 2 students. This is typical of what the province is reporting and the cohort of students who had interrupted learning due to Covid. We have 69% of students at benchmark. Originally 12 students were not meeting – we have moved 3. The remaining 9 are working on building phonetic skills and receiving support.
4. Home Alone Program: This will be starting in next 2 weeks for grade 5 students. They will earn a certificate by participating in activities geared towards learning how to be safe at home, while alone, for short periods of time. This program will be offered free to the students (in the past students had to pay) through Schools Plus.
5. Garden Clean Up: May 7: 9-2 Garden Clean Up Event. Members of the school community and beyond are invited to come help spruce up our gardens with new soil, manure, compost and get them ready for planting. Haven't held this event in 3 years. Mrs Ginn & Mrs Ritcey are planting pumpkins, garlic, sunflowers, and beans. The Garden

Clean Up committee are looking for people to water for the summer. Benefit is you get to take home some fresh veggies. It also helps to cut down on vandalism.

6. Events in the planning stages: Primary info session for parents; Maker's Fair (June 16), Field Day (June 15), Spring Fair (June 11). There will be a closing for grade 5 students unless conditions change
7. Agenda item for next time: Review 3 photography packages for contract in the fall. Plus, SAC report to complete.
8. Meeting Discussion & Questions:
 - a) Engaging the Community. We recruited a new community member, Debbie Clark.
 - b) Survey Monkey. This is an important functional tool for SAC to obtain feedback from the parent community. 20% of the budget can be spent on operating costs. The consensus was to do the survey for the end of this school year. Went to vote. Sherisse motioned to spend \$99 on Survey Monkey, \$1300 on phonetics and \$3600 on Teacher Libraries. Johanna second the motion. Motion is carried.
 - c) Physical Activity Framework. The NS Dept of Education & Early Childhood Development are wanting to create a scenario where students are physically active for 1 hour a day i.e., walking/biking to and from school, intramurals. As a SAC, we have been asked to fill out a survey to answer these 2 questions. Keep in mind making this accessible for everyone.

What is needed to build the conditions within and outside of school that will enable our students to be more physically active?

What do we need to consider that should be included in terms of concrete actions in the Physical Activity Framework?

Tracy & Chris – time to learn policy would be helpful. What they would like to see are things that would help Teachers. Having things already created for Teachers. When things don't happen, it's because Teachers don't have the time. It was mentioned the physical grounds need fixing first and not with a band-aid solution. Fixup our school grounds so it is safer for our kids to play on the school ground. It was also mentioned that crosswalks are needed.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm

Next Meeting Date - May 17, 2022, at 6pm